



# NATURES TALES

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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

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## ***In Appreciation of .....***

So often we hear that Natures is a fun place to be. Natures IS a fun place, but the owners don't take the credit for this. Natures is a fun place because:

1. The residents, Winter Texans and guests at Natures are all warm, friendly and welcoming people.
2. We have an amazing amount of weekly activities and special events - definitely something for everyone.

It is unclear which came first - the friendly people or the abundance of activities. Perhaps they feed off each other! Regardless of which came first, the fact is that it is the people here at Natures that make Natures special.

From the owners' point of view, here are some of our observations in no particular order:

1. When people arrive at Natures for the first time they are immediately welcomed by their neighbors and people walking by, making them feel comfortable and 'at home'.
2. The Activities Board does a superb job of welcoming new comers, making them immediately feel like members of our Natures Family.
3. The Activities Board works hard to schedule all the activities and special events.

4. Natures is filled with awesome volunteers: People who host events, work with the hosts, and help with clean-up.
5. Natures has an abundance of 'behind the scenes' volunteers - people who do things because they need to be done. Many times their efforts are not noticed by the majority of people, but the owners are very aware of their contributions to the park.
6. The Natures family IS a family - caring for those who need help.

We, the owners, are so grateful to each and every one of our Natures family for all that you do, and we appreciate that you have chosen to be at Natures. Some parks may refer to themselves as "The Elite Park" but, thanks to our amazing volunteers, we are "The Fun and Friendly Park"!

## ***Tidbits from Cally, Natures' Proud Cat!***

March has been a crazy busy month! Variety show, dances, barbeque, street parties, plus all the usual weekly activities. And I heard that someone was murdered! That was very scary, but I believe that the murderer was arrested! Phew!



- The weather doesn't always cooperate. Our Mardi Gras parade was cancelled because of a really cold snap - but we

still enjoyed the Mardi Gras dance with DJ Steve, hosted by Pat & Renee.

- A first at Natures: A Murder Mystery! This was scary for me, just a little cat. I thought someone was really murdered - but then I realized that it was all in good fun and the audience had to try to work out who the murderer was out of a cast of 16! Everyone fit their part and did an excellent job of trying to sleuth out the murderer - who was NOT the butler! Thanks to all who were involved in putting together an entertaining evening with 'Murder at the Manor'!
- Our Variety Concert was a huge success. What talent we have! Many good voices, Pete with his amazing ability to recite intricate poetry, instrumentalists and skits. Who will ever manage to 'un-see' Eric, Lot 238, in his Itsy Bitsy Yellow Polka Dot Bikini or Jacque in his red dress! Many thanks to all our performers for sharing their talents and to Pete and Steve for organizing the evening. I am already looking forward to our Variety Concert next season!
- Everyone had a great time at the Luau Street Party. The weather was absolutely perfect. DJ Steve did a great job keeping the dancing, games and music flowing. The chefs and their helpers fed everyone a delicious meal, plus there was a table loaded with snacks that people brought. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make this event such a success.
- The blood mobile was back for the 3rd visit of the season. Sixteen people volunteered to donate, 14 were able to donate, and, with two double reds, the total was 16 units of life saving blood. Many thanks to everyone for their willingness to donate.

- H.E.B. has been so good to us! They hosted three events to help us get to know their staff and the products that they sell. The last event was a Farewell Festival held outdoors at the Elsa H.E.B. They provided sausage and fajita tacos. For entertainment there was a Mariachi band as well as bingo with prizes.



*Enjoying delicious snacks provided by H.E.B.*

- What a great idea! A Street Party and Outdoor Social! Frank & Ruthi provided the music, people brought snacks and the Fun Association provided delicious sandwiches. It was a hot, sunny afternoon, almost melting Ruthi who continued to sing and entertain us. A real trouper! Thank you Frank and Ruthi and the Fun

Association for providing us with yet another fun activity!

- Where does all the stuff come from? Once again, for the spring garage sale, all the tables in the clubhouse were piled high, plus racks of clothing (in a nudist resort??) plus big items on the floor and outside the clubhouse! After one day of sales in the clubhouse everything was moved out onto Monte Cristo Road, and the rest of the items were sold. Many thanks to the organizers and their helpers, and to everyone who donated and/or bought items. Total sales amounted to \$1,424.70 which goes to the Fun Association to be spent on fun activities for us.



*Loading Sale Items to go out to Monte Cristo*

- Frank's niece and nephews came down from Pennsylvania so that they could be a part of the Annual Owners' Appreciation Dinner. They, together with other volunteers helped to serve the dinner. A great band provided music for our dance afterwards. Many thanks to everyone who helped with the

organization, set-up, serving and clean-up.



*Servers at the Appreciation Dinner*

Many of my family are starting to head north. I'm going to miss you! Have a wonderful summer, safe travels and I'll be waiting for your return next season.

That's all from me!



### ***Natures Believes in Giving***

There was a special event at the Luau Street Party. Dan, Lot 55, agreed to have his long hair cut off so that it could be donated to **Locks for Love**, a great organization that creates wigs for children who are battling cancer. And we paid to watch the great event! In all a total of \$475.00 was donated to Locks for Love together with Dan's hair and beard. Many thanks to Dan for giving up his locks and to everyone who supported him with a monetary donation.

The Natures' support for **Days for Girls**, an organization that makes re-usable menstrual kits for girls and women, continues to be phenomenal. The monthly workshops

have been well attended, and, with everyone's help, to date over 1,000 kits have been made and distributed to various countries around the world. Looking forward, with new contacts made, the majority of the kits will be distributed locally where the need is just as great. To fund the purchase of fabric to make the kits, a queen size quilt, lap quilt and large bag (all made by Lynne, Lot 56) were raffled, raising \$906.

*The winners of the raffle were:  
Queen Quilt: Linda (Richard) Lot 222  
Lap Quilt: Kathy (Tim) Lot 311  
Bag: Martine (Alain) Lot 6*

Last summer Pam, Lot 303, went to South Africa with a team from the Days for Girls organization to distribute kits. The photo below shows the smiles of the recipients with the kits made right here at Natures!



The ladies sewing the DFG kits generate an abundance of little fabric scraps, and not wanting anything to go to waste, made inquiries as to how they might be used. **Paws, an animal shelter** focused on adoption and education, needs dog beds, and the fabric scraps make excellent stuffing for the beds. If you are interested in being involved in making

dog beds, please contact one of the DFG ladies, and they can point you in the right direction.

Also, don't forget that there is a jar in the clubhouse marked "**Pennies for Palm Valley**". Any pennies or loose change placed in the jar will go directly to Palm Valley, another animal shelter that services the RGV area.

Many thanks to everyone who supports these great causes. What an awesome, caring family we have here at Natures!

### **Condolences**

It is with a very sad heart that we inform you of the passing of Nan (Dave). Nan was a fun loving, kind spirited, and lovely lady who brought great joy to those around her.

Our sincere condolences to Dave and family. Please know that your Natures family is keeping you in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time. Nan will be missed by all of us.

### **Till we meet again!**

It is hard to believe that our 2018/2019 season is rapidly coming to an end. The weather was not as kind to us as it could have been, but even so, it has been a fun season filled with an abundance of activities and special events. We thank all our many, many volunteers who worked to make it such a successful season. We appreciate you and are grateful for all that you do for Natures.

Many of our Natures family are starting to pack up and head to their northern homes. We are sad to see you leaving, but are already looking forward to your return for the 2019-2020 season.

Travel safely, and have a wonderful summer!